COCHIN

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION, 1117

Friday, *the* *5th December 1941* / *20th Vrischigam 1117*

The Council met in the Council Hall, Ernakulam, at Eleven of the Clock with the Hon'ble the President (A. F. W. Dixon, Esq., I. C. S.), in the Chair.

Messrs. Ismail Hajee Essa Sait, Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan, N. V. Subbarayan Chettiar, T. V. Subramania Ayyar and H. J. Walmesley were absent.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

PLAGUE IN MATTANCHERI IN 1939, 1940 AND 1941—PARTICULARS REGARDING REMEDIAL MEASURES

111. Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the number of plague attacks, if any which have affected human beings in the State during the years 1939, 1940 and 1941 ;

(*b*) the number of times that rat-falls have been reported during 1939, 1940 and 1941 ;

(*c*) the number of times smears from rats have been examined either locally in the State or outside the State with the results of the examinations in 1939, 1940 and 1941 ;

(*d*) the total number of *vallams* and boats containing goods that have been cyanogassed in the years 1939, 1940 and 1941 ;

(*e*) the total amount of money collected on account of cyanogassing from *vallams* and boats in the years 1939, 1940 and 1941 ;

(*f*) the charges levied per tarpaulin used for covering the boats while cyanogassing them ;

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(*g*) the arrangements made for the supply of tarpaulins at the cyanogassing stations by those in charge of the stations;

(*h*) whether cyanogassing of goods had been adopted in any other plague-infected areas before goods were allowed to be exported out of it in British India;

(*i*) what enquiries have been made regarding the practice of cyanogassing adopted elsewhere in India before introducing it in the State;

(*j*) the circumstances that led them for re-introducing cyanogassing in the latter part of 1939 after it was once for all abandoned?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development)*:

(*a*) 3, 1 and Nil respectively.

(*b*) 320, 214 and 116 respectively.

(*c*) 320, 214 and 116 smears respectively were examined locally in 1939, 1940 and 1941. 8 cases in 1939, 6 in 1940 and 3 in 1941 were found positive and these were got examined by the Guindy Institute also.

(*d*) the number of *vallams* cyanogassed in 1114, 1115 and 1116 came to 30,172, 26,494 and 11,430 respectively.

(*e*) Rs. 21,678, Rs. 17,555 and Rs. 10,412 respectively were collected during 1114, 1115 and 1116.

(*f*) No separate charges were collected for tarpaulins.

(*g*) Government have provided an adequate number of tarpaulins.

(*h*) There is no definite information. But it is understood that in Cumbum valley in the Madras Presidency the cyanogassing process is adopted. Fumigation with cyanogas is quite a modern process.

(*i*) Experiments regarding cyanogas-fumigation were conducted in the Haffkine Institute, Bombay, and in Cumbum valley and the process was reported to be successful.

(*j*) In 1939, it was first stopped because there were no positive rat-falls for 3 months together. It was resumed in November of that year when a human attack occurred.

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Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* May I know whether Government is aware that no such fumigation of premises or goods or boats is done in Bombay?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* I have no information, Sir.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* When the question was sent in, you might have gathered all these information. Otherwise, how did you get this information regarding the Cumbum valley?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* By reading the literature on the subject. When you put the question, naturally we took pains to find out whether there are places where this experiment has been introduced. We got the information that at Cumbum they are doing this experiment.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* That is why I am asking whether in the process of enquiry any information was obtained that no such process has been adopted in Bombay or any other big city.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Perhaps in Bombay there was no necessity to introduce this system.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Are the Government aware that when once plague broke out in the Bombay Presidency, Bombay was the first place affected?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* In the years 1939, 1940 and 1941, Bombay was not affected.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* I ask whether in the years 1939, 1940 and 1941 when plague broke out, the Haffkine Institute was not there. My point is whether this process was adopted in Bombay when plague broke out there. Or was this process adopted in any other place all over India?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* It is not necessary. Because if in one place it was not adopted, that is no reason why we should not adopt it. Now, may I know what is the object of your question?

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* The object is that these kinds of difficulties should not be brought into play in Cochin when such big centres like Bombay, where the volume of trade is many times more have not adopted this process.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* The point is, has there been an attack in Bombay during these years? What is the use of simply saying that a few years ago when there was an attack of plague in Bombay, they did not adopt this process? This is a modern method and therefore it is adopted because it is considered the best method.

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Mr. President: I may also state for the information of the hon'ble members that the same process was adopted in the Salem District also when there was an outbreak there.

Mr. N. Govinda Pai *(Nominated):* May I know, Sir, what was the cost of cyanogassing to the Government.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* I have not got the exact figure with me now.

Mr. N. Govinda Pai *(Nominated):* I only want to know whether the Government is making a profit out of it.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Yes, a little profit is made out of this. That is by not appointing additional hands. Otherwise there would be no profit.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Cheruthuruthi):* Why should the Government make a profit out of this?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* You can't say that we are making a profit exactly. We are not paying anything either to the Medical Officers or to the Sanitary Officers as we used to do before. Government are not actually making any profit.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Are you cyanogassing the godowns even now?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Not now.

Mr. N. Govinda Pai *(Nominated)* Yes, it is being done now periodically.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Yes, periodical cyanogassing is done as a precaution.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know, Sir, whether during the years 1939, 1940 and 1941 there were any rat falls in Bombay or Karachi or Madras?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Not that I am aware of.

VISHA VAIDYASALAS—NAMES OF VAIDYANS—NUMBER OF POISON CASES TREATED, ETC.

112. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the names of the different Visha Vaidyasalas in the State with the names of the different vaidyans attached to each Vaidyasala;

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